

REMARKS

Office Action

In the Office Action mailed on June 8, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,768,516 to Sugishima (hereinafter "Sugishima") in view of U.S. Publication Number 2002/0057455 to Gotoh et al. (hereinafter "Gotoh"). For reasons set forth in more detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-15 and 20 as amended are patentable over all references of record, either alone or in combination.

The Section 103 Ground of Rejection

In support of the section 103 ground of rejection, the Examiner relies upon the Sugishima reference as teaching a printer control panel having an input mechanism and display. In response, the Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 5, and 11 to make the association of the printer control panel of the claims particular to the location of at least one of the printers coupled to the network recited in the claims. That is, the printer control panel is required to be located with the printer that provides the display of pending print jobs and that accepts user input to reroute a pending print job to another printer coupled to the network. The display also provides a listing of the network printers and their abilities for printing jobs to facilitate the user's selection of an alternate network printer capable of printing the selected print job.

Sugishima does not teach or suggest such a printer control panel. As set forth in Sugishima, the computer 10 is used to provide the resource management information depicted in FIG. 4. The computer 10 performs this function by receiving commands on the network and interrogating devices for the information to display the resource management information. This type of resource management information system is a centralized system. Applicants' system, however, is decentralized as each network printer may include a network printer control panel that displays pending job and available printer information and that also enables a user to select a pending job for rerouting to one of the other network printers coupled to the network. Sugishima does not teach or

suggest that the resource management information may be displayed at a printer and it does not teach or suggest that a user is able to use a control panel at a printer to reroute a pending print job to another printer on the network. Applicants' system addresses the need of a user, who arrives at a printer expecting to find his print job finished and, instead discovers the printer has not printed the user's job. The control panel as set forth in the claims may then be used to learn why the job has not printed and to reroute the print job to another printer on the network. The single computer of Sugishima does not enable these functions to be performed at a printer coupled to the network.

The Gotoh reference does not remedy this deficiency. In Gotoh, another centralized resource management device, namely, a print server, is used to display information about print jobs pending at various printers coupled to a network. Thus, the server of Gotoh does not enable a user at a printer to learn the reason for the output failure and it does not enable the user to input data in the printer to reroute the print job to another printer on the network. Locating a control panel at a printer on a network and displaying data about pending print jobs at the printer while enabling a user to select another printer to perform the print job is neither taught nor suggested by either of the cited references. Therefore, claims 1, 5, and 11 as well as claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 20, which depend from them, require a printer control panel performing these functions to be located at and associated with at least one printer coupled to the network. For at least these reasons, claims 1-15 and 20 are patentable over all references of record, either alone or in combination.

Claim 2

Claim 2 includes the printer control panel limitation described above and is, therefore, patentable over all references of record. Additionally, claim 2 requires that the control panel be configured to display the abilities of other printers coupled to the network. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this display capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 2 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 3

Claim 3 includes the printer control panel limitation described above and is, therefore, patentable over all references of record. Additionally, claim 3 requires that the control panel display provide location information about the other printers coupled to the network. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this display capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 3 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 4

Claim 4 includes the printer control panel limitation described above and is, therefore, patentable over all references of record. Additionally, claim 4 requires that the control panel display provide an indication of a time delay for a print job pending at the printer associated with the control panel. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this display capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 4 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 5

Claim 5 includes the printer control panel limitation described above and is, therefore, patentable over all references of record. Additionally, claim 5 requires that the control panel respond to input data and reroute a pending print job to another printer coupled to the network, which has the abilities required to perform the print job. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 5 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 6

Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above as well as the control panel response discussed with reference to claim 5. Therefore, claim 6 is patentable over all references of record for reasons

discussed above. Additionally, claim 6 requires that the control panel enable user selection of another printer coupled to the network for execution of a pending print job. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this selection capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 6 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 7

Claim 7 depends from claim 5 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above as well as the control panel response discussed with reference to claim 5. Therefore, claim 7 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 7 requires that the control panel enable user selection of a pending print job for rerouting to another printer coupled to the network. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this selection capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 7 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 8

Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above as well as the control panel response and selection capability discussed with reference to claims 5 and 6, respectively. Therefore, claim 8 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 8 requires that the control panel display a location for a printer selected to execute a rerouted print job. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that displays this type of location data for printers. For at least this additional reason, claim 8 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 9

Claim 9 depends from claim 6 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above as well as the control panel response and selection capability discussed with reference to claims 5 and 6, respectively. Therefore, claim 9 is patentable

over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 9 requires that the control panel be adapted to display capabilities for each printer in the list of network printers. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that displays capabilities for printers coupled to a network. For at least this additional reason, claim 9 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 10

Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above as well as the control panel response and selection capability discussed with reference to claims 5 and 7, respectively. Therefore, claim 10 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 10 requires that the control panel enable user cancellation of a print job displayed on the control panel display. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that has this cancellation capability. For at least this additional reason, claim 10 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 12

Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above. Therefore, claim 12 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 12 requires that the control panel display a list of alternate network printers and identify the printing abilities for each printer in the listing. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that performs this type of display. For at least this additional reason, claim 12 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 13

Claim 13 depends from claim 12 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation and the alternate network printer list display described above. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally,

claim 13 requires that the control panel display list also identify a location for each printer in the listing. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that performs this type of display. For at least this additional reason, claim 13 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 14

Claim 14 depends from claim 11 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above. Therefore, claim 14 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 14 requires that the control panel display a pending print job list that includes time delay information for a print job in the listing. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that performs this type of print job display. For at least this additional reason, claim 14 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 15

Claim 15 depends from claim 12 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation and the display of alternate network printers described above. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 15 requires that the control panel receive input that identifies the alternate printer to which a selected print job is to be rerouted. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that identifies an alternate network printer for print jobs rerouted from such a listing. For at least this additional reason, claim 15 is patentable over all references of record.

Claim 20

Claim 20 depends from claim 11 and, consequently, includes the printer control panel limitation described above. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable over all references of record for reasons discussed above. Additionally, claim 20 requires that the method include canceling one of the print jobs displayed on the control panel. None of the references of record teach or suggest a control panel located at and associated with a printer that

Amendment
September 10, 2007

performs cancellation of a print job displayed in a print job listing. For at least this additional reason, claim 20 is patentable over all references of record.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, pending claims 1-15 and 20 have been amended and are patentable over all references of record. Reexamination and allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
MAGINOT, MOORE & BECK LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Lockman", written over a horizontal line.

David M. Lockman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,214

September 10, 2007
Maginot, Moore & Beck LLP
Chase Tower
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3250
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5109
(317) 638-2922 Telephone
(317) 638-2139 Facsimile